

Long-Term Waste Confidence Update

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

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Long-Term Update

Draft Report, “Background and Preliminary Assumptions for an Environmental Impact Statement—Long-Term Waste Confidence Update”

Elements of the Long-Term Update

- Draft environmental impact statement**
- Draft Waste Confidence Decision**
- Proposed Waste Confidence Rule based on the EIS and Decision, if applicable**



Overview of Draft Report

Background and assumptions report is first step in process. Basic topics in the report are:

- Waste Confidence Background and NRC Role**
- General Methodology and Scope of Impacts**
- Assumptions and Scenarios for Analysis**
- Process and Opportunities for Public Input**

Report is available at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/public-involvement.html>

and in ADAMS at accession number ML11340A141

Comment period for report is closed.



Background: Origin of Waste Confidence

In 1979, US Court of Appeals for DC Circuit required NRC to make findings:

- **Whether there is reasonable assurance that an offsite disposal solution will be available by the expiration of the plants' operating licenses; and**
- **If not, whether there is reasonable assurance that the spent nuclear fuel can be stored safely at the sites beyond those dates.**



Waste Confidence Decision and Rule

Decision and Rule established 1984, updated in 1990 and 2010

- **Decision composed of 5 findings and their bases**
- **Rule established to fulfill part of NRC's NEPA obligations when licensing nuclear power plants.**
- **Decision provides basis for Rule and is generic (applies to all plants)**

State of New York, et al. v. USNRC, (Case No.11-1045), and consolidated cases, challenging the 2010 Waste Confidence Rule and related consideration of environmental impacts.



Regulatory Role and Waste Confidence

NRC and Waste Confidence

- **NRC is a regulatory agency**
- **NRC regulates storage and transportation through a comprehensive program**
- **Waste Confidence conveys the Commission's conclusions that safe storage and disposal are feasible and will be available**
- **Waste confidence is not**
 - **a regulatory program**
 - **a specific licensing action**



Waste Confidence EIS: General Scope and Methodology

**Preliminary assumed storage period for analysis:
on the order of 200 years**

Important aspects of EIS methodology

- **Composite, generic sites**
- **Generic impacts**
- **Range of impacts in NRC EISs**
- **Qualitative and quantitative analyses**

**EIS will take advantage of information from
relevant EISs and technical activities on extended
storage and related transportation**



Waste Confidence EIS: Assumptions and Scenarios

Some assumptions:

- All scenarios include transportation between storage sites and to a disposal site
- Storage continues to be a fully regulated activity
- Conditions 200 years from now (e.g., transportation infrastructure) similar to current conditions, with limited projections

Preliminary scenarios for assessing impacts:

- Onsite (at-reactor) storage
- Regional storage
- Consolidated storage (one site)
- Combination + some reprocessing



Comments on Draft Report

- **About 200 submittals**
- **Wide-ranging topics:**
 - **Broad policy concerns**
 - Disposal
 - BRC
 - **NRC regulatory concerns**
 - Storage and transportation
 - **EIS scope and related concerns**
 - Methodology for generic sites
 - Uncertainties in long-range impact analyses



Next Steps and Timeline

2012: Finalize current report, addressing comments

2012-2013: Develop further information on EIS scope and to facilitate public scoping

2013: Initiate formal process under National Environmental Policy Act

2013-2016: Receive input through formal scoping; develop draft EIS, possible draft decision, and possible proposed rule.

2017-2019: If necessary, develop and publish final Waste Confidence EIS, decision and rule.



Public Involvement

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 **Spotlight**

CHOOSE A SECTION 

Home > Radioactive Waste > Spent Fuel Storage > Public Involvement

Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation – Public Involvement

On this page:

- [Upcoming Opportunities for Public Involvement](#)
- [Public Meeting Archive](#)

The NRC periodically holds meetings, conferences, and workshops to inform the public or to solicit public input on various topics. NRC also occasionally publishes documents for public comment. This page lists the upcoming opportunities for public input, as well as previous meetings, on NRC activities related to spent nuclear fuel storage and transportation regulation, the extended storage of spent fuel, and the transportation of spent fuel after extended storage periods. Also included on this page are meetings or other input opportunities pertaining to NRC's proposed Waste Confidence update to identify and account for the impacts of storing spent fuel beyond 120 years. The staff may use information obtained from the public to inform its storage and transportation regulations, guidance, licensing and inspection processes, environmental reviews, or other activities.

Upcoming Opportunities for Public Involvement

The table below lists upcoming public meetings, webinars, and documents available for public comment. For upcoming meetings, also see our [Public Meeting Schedule](#). Information for the meetings is available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System ([ADAMS](#)) if an accession number is given.